

ous tale which it told. Was it possible that a politician of mark, however corrupt, should have been such an idiot as to sell his reputation for three hundred and twenty-nine dollars? The character of General Garfield is as pure as that of Mr. Hayes, and as that of any party politician can be.

The President Elect is a man of feeling and taste, but he is also a strong man, and it is not likely that he will be betrayed by any party passion or thirst of party applause into a departure from the path of equity towards the South and general moderation happily traced by his predecessor. It is said that he means to keep the present Secretary of the Treasury, as a pledge of the continuance of Resumption policy. A measure of Civil Service reform, larger than that on which the present Administration has had strength to enter will be expected at his hands by some of the best of his supporters. But to Party, Civil Service reform is an arduous undertaking: both factions stand in need of the bribery fund, without which their followings cannot be held together or the services of their wirepullers enlisted. It is not of increase of efficiency that the Civil Service of the United States stands in need so much as of increase of purity. The native intelligence and versatility of the people to a great extent supply the place of special training: nothing can be more preposterous or apparently more fatal to good administration than a political rotation of Postmasters, yet if we may trust our own experience the postal administration is good and the same may be said with regard to the police, which is also appointed by party. Against the Customs administration there are loud complaints, on the ground, not of inefficiency, but of corruption. The only department which requires a very special training is that of Foreign Affairs, and this, in the case of the United States, is on a small scale. Competitive examination is, we confess, no idol of ours: it is a safeguard against jobbery when honest appointments cannot be secured; but we prefer honest appointment by the head of the department, who is at liberty to look to trustworthiness as well as to ability and knowledge, and ought to be the best judge of what the service